NEW YORK STATE MECHANIC.

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ANECDOTES OF THE STEAM ENGINE.

No. V.

The engine of the marquis of Worcester, although he gives no statement of the manner of its construction, depended for its action on the condensation and elastic force of steam, and consequently in principle resembled the modern steam engine. It seems also that he had actually constructed a machine upon a large scale, though, unfortunately for himself and for the interests of science, he was unable to excite the attention of the public towards this project, and was looked upon by his contemporaries as a visionary speculator. His death took place in 1667, at the age of 70. In our ignorance of his (Worcester's) mode, the engine of Papin may be considered the most important and masterly attempt that had yet been made to employ the elasticity of steam as a motive power.

The elegant toys of Hero, the beautiful experiments of Porta and Decaus, the modifications of the Greek machine by the unknown Italian, the practical merit of the "water commanding engine," the ingenious ideas of Hautefeuille, and their masterly extension and development by Papin, contain all the rudiments required for a perfect machine, waiting only to be touched by the wand of some mechanical magician, to form a structure of surpassing ingenuity, and semi omnipotent power.

Thirty years after lord Worcester's death, a brilliant ray of improvement suddenly burst into the history of the steam engine, from the consummation of the labors of Thomas Savery, an Englishman, who had been silently employed in combining a mechanism in which elastic vapor was the motive power. For his discovery he obtained the favor of the king, and a patent in 1699, granting him the exclusive privilege of manufacture. But he met with the usual difficulties that attend inventors, in enlisting pecuniary assistance to carry out his ingenious ideas, and had the mortification to find his projects treated with derision and himself classed with visionaries. Yet, among the many original and masterly connecting ideas attributed to him, may be named raising the steam in a boiler, conducting it into a *separate vessel*, condensing it there by *artificial means* and with *instantaneous rapidity*, making the production of the vacuum from an auxiliary become a principal cause of its wonderful effects, producing a *continuity in its action* by the *arrangement* of the parts of his machine, in aid of this latter purpose *replenishing his larger boiler with water without lowering* the temperature of that which it already contained, the use of small pipes to know when it was necessary to introduce the supply of water, the fine mechanism of the *sliding valves*, the ingenious construction of the cold water pipe, the precision with which all the parts were adjusted to aid in the action of each other, and, though last in the enumeration, not least in merit, his admirable arrangement of the *parts*, and sagacious selection of *forms*, and their *effective* connection—all these, which were the achievements of his own genius, have left to succeeding mechanics but few opportunities of supposing omissions, or remedying defects; and this admirable machine, in form and construction, is now nearly the same as when it first proceeded from the hand of its masterly inventor.

In 1705 Papin received a drawing and description of Savery's engine. At that time he was still persevering in his project for raising water by steam, under

EDWARD SOMERSET, MARQUIS OF WORCESTER.

the patronage of the elector of Hesse. He had actually projected an atmospheric engine, when, unfortunately, the success of Savery diverted his mind from the superior project of forming a vacuum under a piston, and by the command of his patron, the elector, he set about to improve Savery's machine, which is universally allowed to be inferior in effect to the other.

Thomas Newcomen, a blacksmith of Dartmouth, England, a man of little scientific knowledge, but endowed with a clear head and great inventive powers, has the credit of carrying out the abandoned project of Papin, and producing an effective engine. The merit of this improvement is shared with Cawley, a glazier of the same town, both obscure men, the place and time of whose birth and death are alike unknown; only that they made provision for the day that was passing over them by following their respective occupations. Having made several private experiments in the year 1710, in the latter part of the following year they made proposals for drawing a colliery which employed the labor of 500 horses; but the application being rejected, they contracted to draw water for a Mr. Back, "where after a great many laborious attempts they succeeded in making the engine work."

In their first operations Newcomen and Cawley operated with steam whose temperature never exceeded that of boiling water, and the vapor was used strictly as a means of forming a vacuum. The weight of the piston, its friction, and the friction of the axis of the balance beam, and the resistance of the pumps, had, therefore, to be overcome by other means, and the *counterpoise* was an effective and obvious one; this was a weight hung on the end of the walking beam, generally on the pump rod. The force of this engine, it will be seen, consisted entirely of the pressure of the atmosphere, differing essentially from those of Papin and Savery, both of whom used the force of steam as well as a vacuum. By this method the danger of bursting the boiler was nearly obviated, as the pressure of one or two pounds on the inch on the boiler, was sufficient to work the engine.

In the first engine of Newcomen the steam was not condensed by an injection, but by merely surrounding the cylinder with cold water. Condensation by a jet is said to have been discovered from an accidental hole in the cylinder, allowing the water which surrounded it to get into the inside, and thus the speed of the engine was doubled. When the cause of this was ascertained, the injection cock was added, as a matter of course. The engine also required the attention of several boys, to manage the cocks, which was a matter of much vexation and inconvenience, from their carelessness. This evil at length produced its own remedy; for a boy named Humphrey Potter, being inclined to *scog*, or skulk, attached the lever which worked the valve to the beam, by means of a cord and weight, by which addition the engine itself produced the necessary motion. This he called a *scogger*.

Newcomen's engine now approached very nearly a self-acting one; but still the turning of cocks and filling of reservoirs was obliged to be in part left to careless men, and, as the precision of the work depended upon these, frequent derangement was the consequence; until Mr. Henry Beighton constructed what he called the hand gear, whereby motion was given to all the cocks and levers by a rod from the beam. This engine was erected in 1718, and, beside the improvement mentioned, it was the first engine in which a *steel yard* safety valve was used.

About the year 1717 engines were sent from England to Russia. The first one sent was made by Desaguliers, to whom we are greatly indebted for the information we possess of these improvements and experiments upon the steam engine. They were used by the czar Peter I. for his garden at St. Petersburgh.

DEBATE ON THE STATE PRISON BILL.

We copy the following outline of this debate from the Albany Argus, from its commencement on Thursday the 24th to its reference to the select committee on Monday last.

Thursday, Half-past 3, P. M.

The house resumed, in committee of the whole, Mr. TAYLOR in the chair, the bill in relation to the STATE PRISONS.

Mr. LOCKWOOD, having the floor, resumed and concluded his remarks against the bill, and moved to strike out the enacting clause.

Mr. LOTT followed, on the other side, vindicating in a clear and forcible argument, the claims of the great mechanical interest of the State, to the relief they had long sought, at the hands of the legislature, and their right to the protection which the law of '36 held out to them, but which they had never realized.

Mr. E. G. BALDWIN spoke in favor of the bill, and at some length—giving, in the course of his remarks, his experience of the effect of convict labor upon the business to which he had been bred—plane making. Mr. B. averred that state competition had ruined that business, and turned adrift many a competent and skilful journeyman to seek employment at low wages in callings to which they were unaccustomed, and to the injury of those with whose occupations they necessarily interfered.

Mr. DAVEZAC took strong ground in favor of the bill, repelling with warmth the idea thrown out by Mr. Lockwood, that the mechanics had been humbugged into the idea that they were injured by state prison competition. Mr. D. pointed triumphantly to the fact that after petitioning the legislature year after year for relief, they had at last taken the matter in hand in a way that demonstrated that they were in earnest, in sending men to represent them, who were of themselves, indentified in feeling and interest with them, and fellow sufferers from the same causes. Their complaints, he said, must and would be heard.

Mr. PALMER next obtained the floor, and made a strong and convincing argument in support of the bill. He went into some calculations as to the probable expence which would be incurred under the bill, should it become a law, in answer to objections on that score, in and out of the House. He also explained the effect and operation of the bill, maintaining the feasibility of the mode of employment provided in it and the

ultimate pecuniary benefit which must result from it to the state, without interfering with any regular mechanical business.

Mr. PENTZ went into some interesting details in reference to the effect of State Prison competition upon the particular business in which he was engaged, and the extremities into which his fellow mechanics had been driven for want of employment under the present system He clothed with a forcible appeal to the house for justice to the mechanics and working-men of the state.

On motion of Mr. WARREN, the committee rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned.

Friday, half past 3 P. M.

The House again went into committee of the whole, Mr. TAYLOR in the chair, on the bill relative to the State Prisons.

The question recurred on Mr. LOCKWOOD's motion to strike out the enacting clause of the bill.

Mr. SWACKHAMER addressed the committee at some length in favor of the bill and against the motion to strike out. Mr. S. went with considerable minuteness, into the statistics of the amount of mechanical products turned out of the prisons annually, in illustration of his main position, that the entire burthen of supporting the present penitentiary system, fell upon the mechanics of the state. His calculations of the value of the fabrics manufactured in the prisons, at the low prices of labor for which the convicts were farmed out, contrasted with the wages which the same amount of labor would otherwise yield to honest mechanics, showed a loss to the latter amounting to more than half a million of dollars annually. Mr. S. also took the ground that the present system was not only unequal, oppressive and unjust to a large and most deserving class of citizens, but utterly a failure as regards the great ends of punishment—the reformation of offenders—that it was not only wrong and unwise in this respect, but positively pernicious, in its moral influences, degrading to mechanical pursuits, and unnecessarily so—while these convicts might be employed, as it was conceded they might be, with pecuniary advantage to the state, in the mines and in the other pursuits specified in the bill, without injury to any interest whatever. Mr. S. closed with an eloquent appeal on behalf of that great interest whose protection from an unequal and unjust competition was the great object of this bill.

Wr. WARREN followed in opposition to the bill, disclaiming at the outset, however, hostility to mechanics, who he said constituted a large portion of his constituents. After saying that notwithstanding the large number of mechanics in his county, he never heard any complaint from them that the state prison system of labor interfered with them. Mr. W. proceeded to vindicate the present penitentiary system, as a mean of punishment—contending that whatever may have been its failure to produce reformation in particular cases, its general tendency was and must be in that direction; and in that point of view, should be sustained. Mr. W. denied that the manufactures of the prison would interfere, in any material degree, with mechanical pursuits—and he illustrated his position by reference to his own village, where he said there were more mechanics engaged in the shoe-making business, than there were in the Auburn prison; and yet that the merchants of the place purchased their stock not at the prisons but in Massachusetts, and sold at a fair profit, with no complaint on the part of the local manufacturers, who had as much as they could do. Mr. W. closed with stating some objections to the present bill, which he said only transferred whatever opposition there was in the present system, (and he denied that it was scarcely appreciable) from one interest to another.

Mr. GROUT next obtained the floor, denying that the present system had even a tendency to reform convicts—and quoting Recorder Riker for the position that scarcely two in a hundred came out reformed men. Mr. G. took up also seriatim, the positions advanced by Mr. Warren, and pointed out their fallacy—particularly the assertion that convict labor did not materially interfere with mechanical labor out of the prison—pointing with force to the law of 1835, as a recorded admission on the part of the legislature, that there were evils which required a legislative remedy—and dwelling with warmth upon the fact that even that tardy and moderate act of justice to mechanics, had been converted by the faithlessness of State Prison agents, into a mockery of that great interest. Mr. G. also animadverted upon what he characterized as the buffoonery and ridicule which had been played off upon this bill, by the gentleman from Westchester, and to the implied sneers thus pointedly directed at mechanics and their complaints. Mr. G. closed with a variety of statistics, principally within his own knowledge, going to show the extent of the competition now carried on by the state, through its convicts, with mechanical labor, and chiefly in answer to Mr. Lockwood and Mr. Warren.

Mr. HUMPHREY next took the floor. He was not prepared to say that this bill proposed the proper remedy for what he regarded, to a greater or less extent, as an existing evil. Still, if it was not the proper remedy, if evils existed, it was due to those who asked for redress, that some remedy should be provided, and instead of striking out the enacting clause of the bill, which would give the whole subject the go-by for this session, the legislature should go to work and provide some appropriate remedy. It was the duty of legislators to silence these complaints, if possible. They come from a class comprising a large share of the intellect, enterprise, industry, and respectability of the country; from a class whose numerical strength was not to be trifled with, in a government like ours, depending on the popular favor. If a large portion of citizens felt themselves aggrieved, even if other portions did not fully appreciate their complaints, it was impracticable to carry on the machinery of government, with that large quantity of dissatisfaction existing among its ingredients. Mr. H. closed with expressing his preference for a bill which should carry out the intention of the law of '35.

Mr. STARR desiring to speak to the question, and it being late, moved that the committee rise, which was agreed to, and the House adjourned.

Saturday, half past 3 P. M.

Upon the assembling of the house,

Mr. BEACH moved an adjournment.

Mr. BAKER demanded the ayes and noes on the motion, and there were ayes 28, noes 40.

The house refusing to adjourn,

Mr. WEIR moved the state Prison bill, and the house again went into committee of the whole, Mr. TAYLOR in the chair on that bill.

Mr. STARR having the floor, gave way to

Mr. HUMPHERY, who desired to explain a matter which occurred yesterday. He alluded to the question put to him yesterday afternoon, by the gentleman from Weschester, (Mr. Lockwood,) and to his answer at the time, as to his having voted for the bill of 1835. He referred to it again, because the impression might obtain that he as well as the entire delegation from New York in 1835, were open to the charge of inconsistency. Mr. H. went on to say that Mr. Carr, then a member from New York, introduced a bill on the subject of state prisons, and Mr. Wilkinson of Onondaga, another, which last bill was adopted by the house, almost without alteration. This bill contained provisions not acceptable to himself or the N. York delegation, or to the state prison committee of that year, although they preferred to go for it if their own could not be passed. He (Mr. H.) voted against Mr. Wilkinson's bill, to defeat it, with a view to let in the other bill, in connection with three of the sections of Mr. W.'s bill, which he was disposed to retain. But Mr. W.'s bill having been adopted, there was no opportunity to amend it; hence his vote and that of the entire N. Y. delegation appeared against the bill which finally became a law, but without these explanatory facts. Mr. H. was satisfied at the time, that the law of 1835 would remedy to a great extent, the evils complained of, if enforced in good faith. But it had not been so enforced. And he still thought that that act, with some additional provisions, would remedy a great part of the evils now complained of. Mr. H. said he thought it due to himself and to the members of the N. Y. delegation in 1835, having been cornered by the gentleman from Westchester, that this explanation should be made.

Mr. STARR then addressed the committee at great length, insisting on the abolition of the contract system as soon as possible—for he would not annul them, though illegal—and insisting also on the adoption of the plan proposed in the bill for the employment of convicts, unless the wisdom of the legislature could devise a better—and, in the meantime, urging the enforcement of the law of 1835. Mr. S. in the course of his remarks took occasion to allude to and complain of some sneers at mechanics, which he said he had heard from members on the floor.

Mr. LOCKWOOD asked the gentleman to name the member or members who had sneered at mechanics on the floor. He had heard nothing of the kind.

Mr. STARR said he had the floor, and claimed the right to go on, without interruption.

Mr. LOCKWOOD challenged the gentleman to name a single member who had indulged in sneers at mechanics.

Mr. STARR said he had heard such sneers, but he did not know that he was obliged to name the members from whom he had heard them.—and went on with his speech.

Mr. CASE explained why he, as one of the committee on State Prisons, dissented from his colleagues in regard to this bill—and that was that he did not believe it could pass, and not because he did not believe that the mechanics had cause of complaint, and should have relielf. On the contrary he knew that the prison system had proved injurious to them; and he believed that it might be changed without impairing it materially, and at the same time give satisfaction to the mechanics. He suggested that the committee rise, with a view to have the subject recommitted, and a new bill framed.

Mr. TOWNSEND trusted that the bill would not be referred until some vote had been taken in committee, indicating some principle on which the new bill (if there was to be a new bill) was to be framed. Otherwise, the committee charged with the duty of framing it, would be entirely at sea in regard to what would prove acceptable to a majority of the house.

Mr. WEIR hoped at least a vote would be taken on striking out the enacting clause, and upon the first section of the bill.

Mr. LOCKWOOD said if gentlemen in favor of the bill had got through, he had a word or two to say in reply. He denied that any of them had undertaken to meet the great question, and the only question—and that was whether the manufacture of articles in the prsions interfered with the mechanics of the state, or of the Union, so much so as to call for any action on the part of this legislature. That it did not, was what he stated at the outset, and he had not heard any thing to satisfy him that it did. Even his worthy friend from Rochester (Mr. Starr) admitted that there were about 150,000 mechanics in the state, and that but 1100, or about one to a hundred were employed at mechanical trades in the prisons—and when it was considered that these state prison fabrics were sent all over the Union, and out of it, the competition dwindled down to nothing. He could tell the gentleman that in a single town in Fairfield county, in Connecticut, there were four times the number of hatters employed in hatting for the city of New-York, that there were employed in that business at Sing Sing. He could tell the gentleman also, that as early as 1834 the stone-cutters from his own city petitioned the legislature to suppress in the prisons the very business proposed by this bill to be carried on more extensively than ever.

But Mr. L. said he rose more to repel some insinuations and charges which had been thrown out in this debate in regard to himself personally, particularly as to his course towards mechanics He denied lmost unqualifiedly that he had spoken either in a sneering or disrespectful manner of mechanics or their occupation, or that he entertained any other feeling than that of regard for both. He lived among mechanics. He was surrounded by them. His feelings were all with them. He rejoiced as much as any man could in their prosperity, and would be the last to do any thing calculated to inflict an injury on them. He had said nothing which could fairly be construed into an attack upon them or their pursuits, which he regarded as among the most honorable and laudable of all employments. No man who knew him could believe for a moment that buffoonery, insults or sneers were ever used by him against that great interest—and he appealed to all who heard him yesterday, to say whether he was chargeable with having said any thing to warrant gentlemen in imputing such a course of remark to him.

But we cannot follow Mr. L. further to-day. Mr. L. closed with moving that the committee rise and

The committee rose.

Mr. SWACKHAMER, in the house, moved that the bill be referred to a select committee of one from each senate district, to report complete.

An adjournment was moved. Lost.

Mr. LOCKWOOD demanded the ayes and noes on Mr. Swackhamer's motion, but they were not ordered, and

The bill was referred, as moved by Mr. S.

Adj. to 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

On Monday morning the subject was referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. SWACKHAMER, BROWN, DAVIS, SIMMONS, S. C. KENYON, HUMPHERY, SPENCER, and PRATT.

Mr. SWACKHAMER, from the select committee, reported the *State Prison Bill* on Tuesday, 29th, with material amendments, and it was ordered to a third reading, *nem. con.* The report, we understand, was unanimous. The bill, in its present shape, enforces, by penal enactments, the law of 1835, which abolishes the contract system, and prohibits the teaching of trades in the state prisons. It provides also for the appointment of a legislative committee to visit the northern iron mines, with a view to ascertain and re-

port as to the practicability of employing the convicts in the business of mining and smelting.

MR. SWACKHAMER'S BILL.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the court in which any person shall be convicted of an offence punishable in a state prison, before passing sentence, to ascertain by the examination of such convict on oath, or by satisfactory evidence, if practicable, whether such convict had learned or practised any mechanical trade; and the clerk of such court shall enter the fact so ascertained upon the minutes of the court, and deliver a certificate thereof to the sheriff of the county, who shall cause the same to be delivered to the keeper of the proper prison at the same time that such convict is delivered to him pursuant to the sentence of such court.

§ 2. No convict who shall hereafter be sentenced to imprisonment in either of the state prisons of this state shall, in such prison, be permitted to work, except as is hereafter provided, at any other mechanical trade than that which, as shall appear by the certificate of the clerk of the court in which he was convicted, such convict had learned or practised previous to his first conviction; or in the making or manufacture of articles for which the chief supply for the consumption of the country is imported from without the United States.

§ 3. No contract for the services of any number of prison convicts, for a longer period than six months, shall hereafter be made by the agent of either of the prisons, without the consent and direction of the inspectors at a regular or special meeting of the board of inspectors, and an entry whereof shall be made in the minutes of their proceedings. At least two months' notice of the time and place of letting every contract for the labor of convicts, by direction of the inspectors, shall be given in the state paper and in one newspaper printed in each city in this state, which notice shall specify the particular branch of business in which the convicts are to be employed, the length of time for which their services are to be let, not exceeding five years, and the number of convicts to which the contracts are to be limited; and in all these branches of business of which the consumption of the country is chiefly supplied without foreign importation, the number of convicts to be employed or let shall be limited by the number who had learned the trade specified in the proposed contracts.

§ 4. Nothing in this act contained shall prevent the employment of convicts at any mechanical business in the said prisons so far as may be necessary to fulfil the obligations of the state in such existing contracts as have been lawfully made for convict labor.

§ 5. The inspectors of each of the prisons of this state shall, on or before the first day of June next, transmit to the attorney-general a copy of every contract for convict labor in their possession, certified by a majority of them to be correct; and shall also, within a reasonable time, communicate to him any information in their power, which he shall require. If, on examination, the attorney-general shall be of opinion that any of such contracts are in violation of existing laws, he shall certify such opinion in writing, to the inspectors having charge of the same; and the inspectors shall cause every such contract, which in the opinion of the attorney-general is illegal, to be annulled or rescinded on or before the first day of January next.

§ 6. Any inspector or agent of either of the said prisons who shall knowingly let or hire, or consent to the letting or hiring of the labor or services of a convict contrary to law; and any officer of either prison who shall knowingly and wilfully cause a convict to be employed at work prohibited by law, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction, be punished by fine in a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in a county jail for a term not exceeding one year, and shall forfeit his office.

§ 7. Whenever complaint shall be made to the attorney general, accompanied by satisfactory information, that any of the provisions of this act have been violated by an officer of either of the said prisons, it shall be his duty to cause such offender to be prosecuted; and any indictment for an offence against the provisions of this act may be found or tried in any county in which the offence was committed or any adjoining county.

§ 8. A committee of two from the assembly and one from the senate shall be elected by ballot, on the first Friday after the passage of this act, whose duty it shall be to ascertain whether mining and smelting operations can be profitably carried on upon any of the lands owned by the state; and if no such place can be found upon the state land, then to ascertain the most reasonable terms upon which the state can purchase a small tract of mineral land for such purposes, properly located. It shall also be the duty of the committee to ascertain what would be the probable expense, over and above the surplus earnings of all the state prison convicts for two years, to remove to said tract not to exceed five hundred of the prisoners confined in the prisons of the state, and the probable expense of building a prison for their safe keeping and accommodation, and generally the expediency of employing such convicts in such operations of mining and smelting. Said committee to report to the legislature at its next regular session, upon the matters herein before named, and such other information as they may deem useful. The members of the committee shall be entitled to three dollars each per day for every day actually engaged, and the same mileage as the members of the legislature; but no member of said committee shall receive pay for more than one month's services.

§ 9. Sections thirty-nine and forty of chapter three, title two, article one, part four of the Revised Statutes, and all other laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

§ 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

FOOD BEARING PLANTS.

I propose to give some brief sketches of several of the most curious plants and trees which produce food, and are otherwise useful to man. I shall confine myself to such as are least known to this part of the country, or are altogether foreign to this continent; aiming to make my descriptions useful and entertaining rather than learned and scientific. The first which has been selected is the

BREAD FRUIT.

This is a native of the South Sea islands, and many parts of the Archipelago; inhabiting only such places as are both hot and damp. The botanists have not yet decided to separate the order from that of the nettle tribe—hence it may be looked upon as a gigantic nettle. The upas tree of Java, is a species of it, and a certain Indian species of fig. In the forests of Bengal and Malabar it forms large trees and yields valuable timber. The tree however which it is intended particularly to notice here grows wild in Otaheite and other islands of the South seas, and is about 40 feet high, with large and spreading branches. The fruit is green, and equals in size the largest melons. When gathered it is generally used immediately, for if it be kept more than twenty four hours, it becomes hard and choky. The natives prepare it by roasting in the hot embers, when it becomes "soft, tender and white, resembling the crumb of a loaf." It was greatly extolled by Capt. Cook, and forms so important a part of the support of the South sea islanders that it was introduced by the British government into the West Indies, where it is still cultivated. It is not esteemed, however, by the natives, equal to the plantation as an article of human food. The tree also supplies clothing and numerous other conveniences of life. The inner bark, which is white, and composed of a net like series of fibres, is formed into a kind of cloth. The wood is used for the building of boats and houses. In whatever part the tree is wounded, a glutinous milky juice issues, which when boiled with cocoa-nut oil, is employed for making bird-lime, and a cement for filling up cracks in such vessels as are intended for holding water. Some parts of the flowers serve as tinder, and the leaves, which are sometimes three feet in length, are used for wrapping up food, and other purposes. The nuts also, when roasted, are said to be as excellent as the best chestnuts. In Anson's voyages, the fruit is said to be delicious when ripe, and when mixed with lemon or orange juice, to have a grateful tart flavor, not unlike apple-sauce. Where it has not been generally introduced as an article of food, it is used as a delicacy; and whether employed as bread or in the form of pudding, it is considered highly palateable by the European inhabitants.

BANANA.

This is also a valuable plant, which grows in the West Indies and other tropical countries. It has leaves about six feet in length, and a foot broad in the middle. The fruit is four or five inches long, and about the shape of the cucumber. When ripe, the banana is a very agreeable fruit, with a soft and luscious pulp, and is frequently introduced in desserts in the West Indies, but never eaten green like the plantain. The Spaniards have a superstitious dislike to cut this fruit across; they always slice it from end to end, because in the former case the section presents an imaginary resemblance to the cross. The banana is sometimes fried in slices as fritters. If the pulp of this fruit be squeezed through a sieve, it may be formed into small loaves, which after having been properly dried, may be kept for a great length of time. The banana is an inferior species of the plantain, which will be given in my next. LIEBER.

INVENTIONS, DISCOVERIES, ETC.

A NEW HYGROMETER.

A new instrument to measure the degrees of moisture in the atmosphere, of which the following is a description, was invented by M. Baptist Lendi, of St. Gall:

In a white flint bottle is suspended a piece of metal, about the size of a hazel nut, which not only looks extremely beautiful, and contributes to the ornament of a room, but likewise predicts every possible change of weather twelve or fourteen hours before it occurs. As soon as the metal is suspended in the bottle with water, it begins to increase in bulk, and in ten or twelve days forms an admirable pyramid, which resembles polished brass; and it undergoes several changes, till it has attained its full dimensions. In rainy weather, this pyramid is constantly covered with pearly drops of water; in case of thunder or hail, it will change to the finest red, and throw out rays; in case of wind or fog, it will appear dull and spotted; and previously to snow, it will look quite muddy. If placed in a moderate temperature, it will require no other trouble than to pour out a common tumbler full of water, and to put in the same quantity of fresh. For the first few days it must not be shaken.

SUBSTITUTE FOR GAS.

A Mr. Van Noorbeck, of Bruges, has prepared a liquid which can be used in a lamp. The flame throws out a light of surprising purity and brilliancy, and is in length, about from seven to eight inches, it burns steadly, fatigues in no degree the sight, gives no smoke, exhales no odor, resists the action of the wind, and while exposed to it, loses neither its brilliancy nor its intensity. Mr. Van N. has proposed to the municipality to light the grand palace, at half the expense, with his newly invented lamp, in order to convince the incredulous.—*Buffalo Journal.*

SAFETY STEAM-BOILER.

A patent has recently been obtained by Captain Easton, of Alabama, for an improved safety apparatus to be applied to steam boilers, the action of which depends upon the use of a fusible alloy, which is applied in a new and apparently efficient manner. The alloy is contained in two small cylinders, which are placed on the top of the flue within the boiler, and at the instant that the heat becomes sufficient to fuse that part of the alloy that is in contact with the flue, a valve, which opens inward, admits water and steam from the boiler into the flue, and consequently into the fire, which immediately lowers the temperature and takes off the tension of the steam. The apparatus has been put into operation in the basement story of the Patent Office, on a scale sufficiently large to exhibit the result in a very satisfactory manner. The action appears to be certain, and the operation can be repeated a great number of times without its being necessary to renew the alloy, and without affecting the degree of heat at which it fuses. Immediately after the temperature of the steam has been reduced the engine can be again put into action, thus entirely avoiding the detention consequent upon some analogous plans which had been previously devised. It has been examined by several individuals competent to form a judgment in such matters, and has appeared to them well calculated to attain the end proposed by the inventor.—*National Intelligencer.*

SELF-MADE MEN.

No. VIII.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

[Concluded.]

On the passing of the revenue acts of 1767, he became still more bold and vehement in his expostulations, and openly predicted in England that the inevitable result of those and the other similar measures of the ministry would be a general resistance by the colonies, and a separation from the mother country. But he never deviated from his original plan, to make every effort to enlighten the public opinion in England, to arrest the ministry in their infatuation, and to inculcate moderation and patience, as well as constancy and unanimity, on America. He endeavored, at the same time, to stand well with the British government, aware that this was necessary to enable him to serve his country effectually; while he never ceased to proclaim the rights, justify the proceedings, and animate the courage of his countrymen. He was not ignorant, to use his own words, "that this course would render him suspected in England of being too much an American, and in America of being too much of an Englishman." His transmission of the celebrated letters of Hutchinson and Oliver (1772), which had been placed in his hands, is not the least memorable of his acts at this opening period of the revolution. He immediately avowed his own share in the transaction, although he never divulged the names of the persons from whom he had received them. The indignant petition of the assembly of Massachusetts, in consequence of these letters, was presented by him to the ministry, and he was immediately made the object of the most virulent abuse, and held up to the hatred and ridicule of the British nation. He met the conflict with no less spirit than wit, as is particularly exemplified in his two satirical pieces, the Prussian Edict and the rules for reducing a great Empire to a small one. At the discussion of the petition before the privy council, Franklin was present. Wedderburn (afterwards lord Loughborough), the solicitor-general, assailed him with the most coarse invective, styling the venerable philosopher, and the official representative of four of the American provinces, a "thief and a murderer," who had "forfeited all the respect of society and of men." The ministry now dismissed him from his place of deputy postmaster general, and a chancery suit was instituted in relation to the letters, for the purpose of preventing him from attempting his own vindication. Attempts were made, as the difficulties increased, to corrupt the man whom it had been found impossible to intimidate: "any reward, unlimited recompense, honors and recompense beyond his expectations," were promised him; but he was as inaccessible to corruption as to threats. It was at this period that he presented the petition of the first American congress; and he attended, behind the bar (Feb. 1, 1775), in the house of lords, when Chatham proposed his plan of a reconciliation. In the course of the debate that great man characterized him as "one whom all Europe held in high estimation for his knowledge and wisdom; who was an honor, not to the English nation only, but to human nature." Having received an intimation, that the ministers were preparing to arrest him as guilty of fomenting a rebellion in the colonies, he embarked for America, and was immediately elected member of the congress. As a member of the committee of safety and of that of foreign correspondence, he performed the most fatiguing services, and exerted all his influence in favor of the declaration of independence. In 1776, he was sent to France as commissioner plenipotentiary, to obtain supplies from that court. He was not, at first, publicly received in his official capacity, but he succeeded in gaining the confidence of the count de Vergennes; and, soon after the reception of the news of the surrender of Burgoyne, he had the happiness of concluding the first treaty of the new states with a foreign power, Feb. 6, 1778. For the particulars of this mission we must refer to his correspondence. He endeavored to establish the credit of America throughout Europe, by his essay entitled Comparison of Great Britain and America as to Credit, in 1777. No sooner were the capture of Burgoyne and the treaty with France known in England, than the ministry began to talk of a reconciliation. Emissaries were employed to sound Franklin, as to the terms on which this *reconciliation of the colonies* could be effected; but he rejected every idea of treating, except on the basis of independence. "The Americans (he said) were neither to be *dragooned* nor *bamboozled* out of their liberty." The next act of the British ministry was to endeavor to separate America from France, and to excite a jealousy between the two countries; but all these wiles were defeated by the firmness and prudence of the American ministers. After the conclusion of the treaty with France, Franklin had been appointed minister plenipotentiary to that court (1773), and was subsequently named one of the commissioners for negotiating the peace with the mother country. At the close of the negotiations (November, 1782), he requested to be recalled, after fifty years spent in the service of his country, but could not obtain permission to return till 1785. During this interval, he negotiated two treaties, one with Sweden, and one with Prussia. The general enthusiasm with which he was received in France is well known. His venerable age, his simplicity of manners, his scientific reputation, the ease, gayety and richness of his conversation,—all contributed to render him an object of admiration to courtiers, fashionable ladies and *savants*. He regularly attended the meetings of the academy of sciences, and was appointed one of the committee which exposed Mesmer's imposture of animal magnetism. At a meeting of the academy, he met Voltaire, then in Paris, on his triumphal visit. The patriarch of letters and the patriarch of liberty met before a crowded hall, and embraced. On his return to his native country, before he was permitted to retire to the bosom of his family, he filled the office of president of Pennsylvania, and served as a delegate in the federal convention, in 1787, and approved the constitution then formed. He died April 17, 1790, with his faculties and affections unimpaired. A complete edition of his works was published in London, 1806. in 3 vols. 8vo. His memoirs, with his posthumous writings, were published by his grandson, W. T. Franklin, in 1819, 3 vols. 4to.; later edition, 8vo.

JAMES SANDY.

In the town of Alyth, in Scotland, there lately lived a man of much provincial celebrity, of the name of James Sandy. The originality of genius and eccentricity of character which distinguished this remarkable person have been rarely surpassed. Deprived at an early age of the use of his legs, he contrived by dint of ingenuity not only to pass his time agreeably, but to render himself a useful member of society. He soon displayed a taste for mechanical pursuits, and contrived, as a workshop for his operations, a sort of circular bed, the sides of which, being raised about eighteen inches above the clothes, were employed as a platform for turning lathes, table vices, for tools of all kinds. His genius for practical mechanics was universal. He was skilled in all sorts of turning, and constructed several very curious lathes, as well as clocks and musical instruments, of every description, no less admired for the sweetness of their tone and the elegance of their execution. He excelled too, in the construction of optical instruments, and made some reflecting telescopes, the specula of which were not inferior to those finished by the most eminent London artists. He suggested some important improvements in the machinery for spinning flax; and we believe he was the first who made the wooden jointed snuff boxes, generally called Laurence-kirk boxes, some of which, fabricated by this self-taught artist, were purchased and sent as presents to the royal family. To his other endowments he added an accurate knowledge of drawing and engraving, and in both of these arts produced specimens of the highest excellence. For upwards of fifty years he quitted his bed only three times, and on those occasions his house was either inundated with water or threatened with danger from fire. His curiosity, which was unbounded, prompted him to hatch different kinds of bird's eggs, by the natural warmth of his body, and he afterwards raised the motley brood with all the tenderness of a parent; so that on visiting him it was no unusual thing to see various singing bird's, to which he may be said to have given birth, perched on his head, and warbling the artificial notes he had taught them. Naturally possessed of a good constitution, and an active, cheerful turn of mind, his house was the general coffee room of the village, where the affairs of both church and state were discussed with the utmost freedom. In consequence of long confinement, his countenance had rather a sickly cast, but it was remarkably expressive, and would have afforded a fine subject for the pencil of Wilkie, particularly when he was surrounded by his country friends. This singular man had acquired by his ingenuity and industry an honorable independence, and died possessed of considerable property. He married about three weeks before his death.

From this brief history of James Sandy, we may learn this very instructive lesson, that no difficulties are too great to be overcome by industry and perseverance, and that genius, though it should sometimes miss the distinction it deserves, will seldom fail, unless by its own fault, to secure a competency and respectability.

POWER AND BEAUTY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

BY JOHN N. MAFFIT.

"It was the English language that sustained Milton while he piled arch above arch till he made a dwelling fit for a god, and while he threaded the gloomy labarynths of hell. It enabled Newton to read the widest leaf of God's volume of nature, and to range over its immeasurable lines from margin to margin while *he poured on the republic of letters* a RADIANT STREAM from the heaven of heavens. It supported Byron when his mighty soul rose to the work to which he had devoted himself, and from the dark realms of despair and irrevocable doom, he conjured up demons *bearing the scars of heaven's thunder on their unearthly brows*. This language was the *thunder and lightning* which Patrick Henry rolled over the prostrate forms of his adversaries and the enemies of freedom. It sustained Bunyan in those wondrous creations which have exalted him to fame which will last till the prayer of earth be merged in the glad and eternal psalm."

COUNSELS AND CAUTIONS.

BEWARE! Leave your purse and watch at home when you go to the playhouse or an auction room.

TRAVELLING. When you take a journey in winter put on two shirts; you will find them much warmer than an additional waistcoat.

BUILDING REPAIRS. If you mean to buy a house that you intend to alter and improve, be sure to double the tradesman's estimate.

YOUR STAIRCASE. Paint the steps a stone color; it will save scouring and soap.

HOUSEKEEPING. If you are in trade keep no more houses than you can support; a summer-house and a winter-house have forced many a man into a poor-house.

ENOUGH SHOULD SUFFICE. A man who has obtained a competency, and ventures upon a speculation that may be capable of consuming all that he has already got, stakes ease and comfort against beggary and disgrace.

LOQUACITY. A gossip has no home.

THE OLDEST MAN IN BOSTON. On Sunday last our highly respected fellow citizen William Abrams completed his *one hundreth year*. He is still in the enjoyment of good health. He is a tailor, by trade, and made, with his own hands, the clothes he now wears, when he was *only* 95. He is in good health, and retains his sight and hearing wonderfully well. He goes to market and splits wood for exercise. He has had 124 descendants—namely, 9 children, 54 grandchildren, 10 great-grand children, and one great-great-grand-child. *Boston Transcript.*

ALBANY, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1842.

WHAT ARE WE COMING TO?

He who has watched with care the signs of the times, and marked well the workings of the great mass of the American people, is no doubt well satisfied that no long time will elapse before a *change* will come over the policy of this Union. The leaven is working, and the time is fast coming, when the giant parties that now divide the American people will crumble down, and the day of pure democracy dawn upon us. The mass have long enough submitted to the dictation of party leaders, they have been long enough amused with the specious tale of the smooth tongued and designing hypocrite, they have learned the true value of politician's promises, the reliance that can be placed in their most solemn asseverations. They have learned it in the hard school of experience, and the lesson has sunk deep in their memories. But while they have been learning this hard lesson, they have also learned their own strength and power. They have discovered that they need only to speak to be obeyed, and the consequences of this knowledge the demagogues, so abundant among us, may well fear. The wrangling, the broils, the quarrels of those men to whom the people had deputed the power to act for them, and sustain their interests, have at last opened their eyes to their true situation. The scales of party have fallen from them, and, in a reflective moment, they have discovered that they were mere dupes, the play things of designing jugglers, in the farce of legislation. They have seen men in whom they depended, and who were sent to our national councils, to tran act measures for the public good, squandering in idle words the people's time, and, not content with words alone, seen the capitol of the United States desecrated and disgraced by brawls, and crimes that would blacken the dark hells of those rotten ulcers on the bosom of this fair earth, London and Paris. Murder has been boldly done, and the miscreant goes unhung! Life has been threatened, and the sacred gift of freedom, the right of petition, has been invaded, and liar, and cut-throat, and villian, have been bandied in the halls of our legislative councils!

The people have seen these things; yes, and the people will correct them. Corruption will not dare to stalk abroad with brazen front in the time which is at hand; for the people will soon show they are able to take care of themselves. This is not idle declamation. The laborers of America are arousing from the leaden lethargy that has bound them down, they have only to say, and the work is done. "The schoolmaster is abroad," the mechanics are establishing their own organs, and let them but lay their hand on the lever that moves the world, and the stout arm and the fearless press will be heard in every nook and corner of this our land. Every week witnesses some new laborer in the wide field. We have a new hand at the wheel in the *Buffalo American*, and the Hartford *American Protector* comes to us on a larger sheet, and in a new dress. God speed them all! We are young, but the strength of right is with us, and though but a few months have elapsed since we set our sails to the free winds, the rocks are passed, the coast storm is weathered, and we are now fairly on the broad sea, the foe of wrong, the advocate of right! Nor will our task be accomplished till the laborers of America awake to their interests; till we see the laborer assuming his true dignity, and the pampered sons of pride sink into native and congenial obscurity. The first stone has been thrown—onward!

CERAMIEGRAPHY.

At a recent meeting of the Albany Institute, Dr. T. R Beck read a paper on this art, and exhibited an elegant specimen of what is called *crystallo-ceramie*, and also several specimens of glass, as recently employed in tapestry work in France and England.

The name crystallo-ceramie is given to an elegant but difficult species of manufacture, in which medallions, portraits, and other subjects, executed in an opaque material, are enclosed or incrusted with glass. This art was first attempted by inclosing in glass small figures made of a peculiar kind of clay, but these experiments were but in few instances successful, owing to the unequal expansion and contraction of the two substances, and their consequent fracture. More recently a composition has been employed for the opaque figures which is less liable to these accidents. It is necessary that the substance employed in these devices should be less fusible than glass, incapable of generating air, and, at the same time, susceptible of expansion and contraction, as the glass becomes hot or cold. The ornamental figures are introduced into the glass while hot, and thus become incorporated with it.

A Mr. Pellatt, of England, some years ago, patented a kind of ornamental manufacture, called crystallo-ceramie or glass-incrustation, consisting of an opaque substance imbedded in a mass of colourless glass. A medallion or bas-relief, representing any device whatever, is moulded in a peculiar kind of clay capable of resisting the heat of melted glass; and the medallion is enclosed between two pieces of soft glass, or else is introduced into a cavity in the glass, from whence the air is afterwards extracted. The introduction of the medallion into the glass is the main difficulty in this process, and requires much skill and ingenuity, in order that no air-bubbles may exist between the two substances. When finished, and the external surface of the glass cut to the required form, the appearance of the imbedded medallion is singularly chaste and elegant; for the white clay, seen within the clear and highly refractive glass, presents an appearance nearly resembling that of unburnished silver. This branch of art, *i. e.* the incrustation of clay devices, was invented by a Bohemian, about sixty years ago; at a later period some French manufacturers encrusted medalions of Napoleon in this way, and sold them at an enormous price; but since the introduction of the art into England, under an improved form, a wide extension has been given to its applicability. Decanters, goblets, wine-glasses, lamps, girendoles, chimney-ornaments, plates, door-handles, and other articles formed of flint-glass, have been ornamented in this way; the incrustations beings arms, ciphers, crests, inscriptions, portraits, small busts, caryatides, or indeed any small objects capable of being modelled or moulded in clay. The incrustations may be painted with metallic colours, which will remain uninjured by the heat required in the process.

Pellatt's patent may be found in the *Repertory*, vol. 45. p. 65, in the Institute Library.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA—No. I.

Some of our newspaper cotemporaries are already revelling in anticipated war with England. "Hurra for a war with Britain," seems to be the motto, and were it not, haply, that the influence of these belligerent prints is so small, we would tremble for the consequences of these inflammatory appeals to the worst passions of the human heart—to that dormant hereditary enmity with which too many of our people regard that nation, most nearly allied to us by all the ties of consanguinity, interest and language. England is our ancestor. It is she who has given us our own noble tongue; her customs are ours; her great men we hail as brothers, and we look upon them with pride, as members of that great and noble Anglo-Saxon race, now the first in enterprise, wealth and importance, on the globe. Her common law is ours, and though we have broken from many of her time-bound distinctions and prejudices, and rooted out those few remaining tokens of barbarous and feudal times which are there so deeply rooted that time can only eradicate them, yet we are essentially the same people. The same general characteristics mark us, and we are only different, because circumstances differ. Innately we are the same, but thrown upon a soil before unknown to civilized man, in a country untracked and new, the Anglo-Saxon spirit was no longer trammeled by time honored customs, but the grandeur of his new home called forth the pride and the dignity of the man, the wants of life taught him enterprise, the preservation of his home and family from the attacks of a wily foe, made him bold; the free eagle, now his national bird, taught him lessons of freedom and liberty, and the habits and reliances of centuries were no longer of weight with him. The same blood he inherited from his proud and noble ancestors ran in streams of fire through his veins, under the aggressions and impositions of those ancestors. Circumstance alone had made them different, and marked the distinction between the Englishman and American! England has now recovered from the error she had fallen into with regard to her American children in the war of the revolution, and the precipitancy and aggravating course adopted by her imperious, short-sighted and arrogant ministers, finds no apologist at this day, except among the most ignorant of the ignorant and unenlightened of the British nation.

We do not deny that the English are arrogant, nor do we maintain that the shadow even of an excuse can be urged to palliate many, too many of her actions. Most assuredly should every true man condemn her course in regard to the unoffending Chinese; but let us not lay the flattering unction to our souls that we are free from guilt, as heinous in the sight of heaven. Our Indian wars have no better foundation. The cry of the injured Seminole will call for vengeance in the high court of heaven, and before the bar of eternal and never

slumbering justice will we have to meet the Indian and the stricken slave. Dark, dark and red are the stains on our national escutcheon, and *blood* is on the head of our nation—blood which future years of national repentance can alone wash away. Then let us not reproach the guilty, when we are equally criminal; let us not raise our voice in holy horror, and turn up our eyes with pious indignation, when we hear of British outrage, of British aggression, of British insolence. A comparison, drawn with truth, would be far from flattering to either.

Yet there are those among us who would be glad to see America arrayed against England—who would rejoice to see our country deluged with blood—for here, on our soil, in such an event, must the battle be fought—America must be the battle ground. They would see our cities in flames, our commerce destroyed, our advancement as a nation put back for many years—they would madly rush into a conflict at which the soul shudders, for dreadful must it be when Greek meets Greek, when spirits of like unyielding stamp face each other in deadly strife, the war cry of each—"death or victory!"

Let us reason coolly upon the validity of the reasons urged for such a step. First, we have the vexed question of the north eastern boundary. A few thousand acres of land are there the subject of dispute. Maintaining our right as indisputable, could that small portion of territory, even though we sustained our claim at the point of the bayonet, repay the one hundredth part of the treasure which must be expended, to say nothing of the misery and sorrow such a course would bring upon the nation? No, though every tree were a cedar of Lebanon, every stone a diamond, every particle of soil gold, and the rivers streams of milk, what would they weigh in the balance against the lives of those who must heap the human sacrifice to the red insatiate god of battle? What need have we of that territory? Are we cramped for room? Look to the boundless west, the illimitable west! We have room enough to support every inhabitant of the globe, yet we would *fight*, forsooth, for a narrow strip of land, necessary, perhaps, to another nation, for the inter-communication of its provinces. Let us resign our title for a compensation. Would not policy, apart from justice and truth, point to such a course? We would compromise no principle, we would lose nought in the estimation of the world in so doing. Each nation believes the other wrong, the treaties are so indefinite that it is probably beyond the power of man to ascertain with correctness the precise line of demarkation. Arbiters could not decide who was correct, and endeavored to procure a mutual compromise, but both nations were too proud, their *honor*(?) deterred them from a step which reason would sanction. But, as one, let America signify her willingness to take an equal portion of soil in another quarter, and England will agree with readiness. This is generally understood. Still, let the case stand as it may, it would be far better to resign the whole than to make even preparations for war, to retain it. Sound policy would dictate such a course; a morbid, false honor, to the contrary.

We have not finished this subject. We shall resume it in our next, and consider the other reasons assigned by the belligerent of our country "for a war!"

MINING.

We notice in one of our exchange papers (the Whitehall Chronicle) that some one subscribing himself "*A Miner*," (should it not be *minor*?) is out in opposition to the plan of employing the convicts in our prisons in working the northern mines. He objects on the ground of interference with those already engaged in that occupation. This is certainly a very novel, though not very weighty argument. It is well known that a very great proportion of the iron used in this country is imported, and that our mines, though rich and valuable, are unworked, because the price of labor, here, is so high as to preclude the profitable employment of capital in such enterprises. We should be pleased, in common with every other American, to have this drain of our staple produce, or what is more to be regretted, our specie, diminished by the less use of imported productions, or manufactured articles, of whatever character. Hence it follows that if the convicts were to be employed in the production of those articles of which great quantities are imported, and for which there is an increasing demand, the evil of which the mechanics complain would be entirely obviated, and further than that, would tend to reduce the imports which are draining our *solid* currency, and producing those bad effects ascribed to over trading. The state would be able to compete with low foreign labor, but no individual or company can, because the price of convict labor to the state is the board and lodging of the convict alone, while in the other case the workman must be paid such wages as is necessary to his and his family's support, and something more, to lay aside for "a rainy day," which brings the production of iron so high that the importer is able to undersell in the market, and still make large profits. Besides this, we find few, very few, American born citizens employed in mining, for their enterprise will lead them into other employments where employers can pay better wages; and the consequence is, that the number of miners in the country, while it is very small, is composed of that class of which we have a great sufficiency, viz: the paupers, the refuse of European countries. We have too many of them already, and, like moths in a bee-hive, they are a fruitful source of evil, contaminating in their influence, and a bane to good society.

Below we subjoin a letter from a gentleman in Keesville, to Gov. Seward, in relation to this matter. One thing, however, we must protest against, the letting out of convicts to contractors. This species of monopoly we shall oppose, let it come up in whatever form. The state may employ the convicts in mines which she may purchase, and the profits of their labor, if there be any, after paying the expenses of the prisons, be applied to the support of the government; and not let out through favoritism, under the cloak of fairness, to partisans and favorites, to their emolument, as a reward for doing the dirty deeds of political demagogues. The concluding suggestion of the following letter, for the state to rent or buy mines for this purpose, we heartily endorse; and only give place to the remainder to show that such a project would be safe and feasible for the state, (which pays nearly nothing for the labor of convicts) if contractors can pay fifty cents per day for the same.

KEESVILLE, *12th July*, 1841.

To his Excellency, *William H. Seward*.

DEAR SIR—Knowing that a determination exists by many citizens of this state, to change the employment of the convicts in the prison at Auburn, I suggest the propriety of putting the prisoners into the mines of Clinton and Essex counties. A prison for the experiment may be made very cheap, at or near the mines, and the men would produce the ore at a reduced price, in consequence of cheap labor.

I should think I could employ 100 prisoners or miners, and could pay 50 cents per day each, with the present price of iron, which is very low.

Should the general government increase the tariff upon iron to that of 1839, over five hundred men might be constantly employed, after some improvements should be made in the manner of getting out ore, which can be readily done; and the greater the demand for ore, the greater the demand for mechanics' services, and a consequent increase of wages.

Iron mines can be rented or bought by the state, or employment given to the prisoners by individuals now engaged in said mines, for a term of years.

I am, very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

C. D. BARTON.

THE STRIKE AT ROCHESTER.

Our correspondent from Rochester, a couple of weeks since, alluded to the ferment in relation to the due bill system there; since which there has been a regular rebellion against it. The following article from the *Rochester Republican* is a description of the scene:

Some months since, the Mechanics' Benevolent Association made an effort to induce the builders, the merchants, and the grocers, to repudiate the due-bill and the order system, but without effect. Subsequently this society, through a committee, gave notice that, unless the system was generally discountenanced, there would be, on the 21st of March, a general strike of the mechanics and workingmen of the city. Yesterday was the time set, and, sure enough, there was such a "STRIKE" as was never before witnessed in this city.

By 10 o'clock, A. M., there were from two to three thousand workingmen assembled in the Court House yard, where a procession was formed, which, preceded by music, proceeded down State to Ann street—thence round into Buffalo street, where the column received large accessions.

First came the "stripes and stars," next the banner of the society—a full length likeness of a man, each foot resting on a pile of "due-bills"—one in his right hand, as a sample—while over his head was printed, in crescent form, these words:

"ARE WE NOT ALL FREEMEN?"

On another piece of canvass, borne in the centre of the procession, were representations of two men—one the dealer on the "*cash system*"—the other in "*due-bills*." The *cash* man was painted full and fat—indicative of good living and a serene conscience, while the representative of the *due-bill* system was most villainously out at the elbows—wore "a most lame and impotent" apology for pantaloons—a pair that would have competed favorably with "Dan MacCrasy's" after his last murder, while, to cap the climax of his repulsiveness, his countenance gave evidence of the terrible workings of an unquiet conscience—the very dogs baying at him as he staggered on his way to the "poor house"—the point to which he was wending his way.

The procession proceeded through Buffalo and Main streets, through Clinton to Washington Square, where it was greeted with repeated discharges of cannon, and other demonstrations of good will.

The number in procession could not have been less than fifteen hundred, which was joined by as many more at the Square.

Order being restored, Doct. Theller, the chosen organ of the mechanics' society, addressed the assemblage for about half an hour, on the injustice and demoralizing tendency of the due-bill system—recommending, hereafter, uncompromising hostility to it.

After the address, which was received with repeated tokens of approbation, several resolutions were read, when his honor the mayor was called for. The call was responded to in a brief speech, in which the speaker acknowledged his sympathy with the mass there assembled, and declared his readiness to co operate with them, in all suitable measures, to do away with the system of which they complained.

Alderman Benjamin, alderman Campbell, and alderman Robbins, severally addressed the meeting, in favor of the objects sought by it, all of which was received with marked approbation.

The resolutions were again read, when a few stirring remarks were made by Messrs. Carmichael, Bassett, and McCollum—the question was then taken on the resolutions, and they passed by holding up a *sea of hands* and a sonorous and all pervading cry of AYE! Just before the assemblage dispersed, a large lot of DUE BILLS, whether signed or unsigned we know not, were set on fire and given to the winds, by which they were carried over the heads of the multitude. Their fiery end was witnessed with great gusto, as a prelude to the general conflagration of the entire system.

The meeting then adjourned to the market, at 7 o'clock last evening.

The object of this movement is a good one, and we trust so emphatic an expression of opinion will have its proper weight with the people of the city, and lead to the abolition of a system which holds out so many temptations to defraud the hard laboring poor of their just earnings, as well as to demoralize the community. We cannot close this imperfect sketch without expressing our gratification at the sobriety and good order evinced, and the entire harmony which characterized the proceedings throughout.

AMERICAN RAIL ROAD JOURNAL.

We have neglected to notice this work thus far, and hasten to do so. It is published semi-monthly, by Egbert Hedge, 120 Nassau street, New-York, at $5 per annum. The number before us contains papers on preserving timber, failure of rail roads, steam navigation, water commissioners' report, internal improvements of Ohio, etc., etc.

We see by the water commissioners' report, that the total expenses already incurred on the Croton water works amount to $7,107,463. It is estimated that, to finish the work, it will be necessary to expend $1,528,894. The commissioners suppose that "the water, with reasonable punctuality in payment to contractors, may be discharged into the distributing reservoir, at Murray's hill, by the ensuing 4th of July." Thus, it seems, the city of New-York will soon be able to receive a pure supply of water, which will conduce not only to their comfort but their health. This work is one of the most stupendous that has ever been undertaken, and the enterprise which has dictated the step has not been misapplied. It will be a monument in after years, not of *folly*, but of wisdom.

AMERICAN INDUSTRY.

There is to be a meeting of those who consider themselves to be the friends of American industry at the City Hall on Monday evening next, to see what can be done in the premises. The call is signed by some of the most prominent men of both political parties, we are told, and it is resolved to exclude all party feeling from their deliberations on the occasion. A notice of the meeting will be found in another column.

GAZETTEER OF NEW YORK.

Mr. J. Disturnell has just issued a new Gazetteer of the state, "comprising its topography, geology, mineralogical resources, civil divisions, canals, rail-roads and public institutions; together with general statistics; the whole alphabetically arranged. Also statistical tables, including the census of 1840; and tables of distances, with a new township mass of the state." From a cursory examination of the work, it appears to be compiled with much care and ability, and forms a convenient book of reference which almost every man will find frequent occasion to consult.

SYNOPSIS OF NEWS, ETC.

There have been thus far upwards of eighty petitioners under the Bankrupt Law from this county, and about one thousand petitioners from the Northern District of New York.—*Albany Daily.*

A paper was read at a late meeting of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, detailing a process discovered by Dr. Canqoin, for the removal of cancerous diseases without cutting.

Encke's comet, it is stated by one who knows, is approaching the earth at the rate of two millions of miles a day, and at that rate would be half way on its route in one month. It was already seen some days since by a powerful telescope. It would be a capital speculation for the Boston ice merchants to hitch a train of their cars to it; they might find a warmer climate than any now known, to freight ice to next season.

The Ozark (Arkansas) Eagle, says that during a very severe gale which occurred on the 3d inst. at Greenfield, Dade county, a ball of ice fell, which weighed one hundred and sixty pounds.

The annual reports to the legislature, of the Savings Banks, for the year ending 1st January, 1842, show the following results.

	Rec'd in 1841.	*Paid in 1841.*	*Total am't of deb'ts.*
Albany Savings Bank,	$15',526	$117,556	$355,774
Brooklyn do	95,152	65,479	243,533
Bowery do	414,867	306,861	792,035
Greenwich do	89,692	65,029	232,436
New-York do	1,322,919	1,039,5 8	3,758,912
Schenectady do	33,650	22,277	77,937
Utica do	83,365	44,175	*38,676
	$1,790,566	$1,666,896	$5,499,303

*Since organization in 1830.

The legislature of Ohio, says the *Elevator*, on the eve of its adjournment, voted against the mechanics of the state, and in favor of the state prison monopoly. The associations of workingmen now forming in the west will manage these things after a while.

Charles Allen, aged 12 years and 8 months, died at Brattleboro, Vt., on the 18th ult. On a post mortem examination of the head of this boy, made by Dr. Spalding, 9 lbs. of perfectly clear water (equal to 9 pints) was taken from the two ventricles of the cerebrum. The brain itself weighed 3 lbs. 2 oz. The size of this boy's head may be estimated by comparing it with a healthy adult head, the brain of which, on an average, weighs about 3 lbs. As the head contained 3 lbs. and 2 oz. of brains, and 9 lbs. of water, it will be seen that the head was equal in dimensions to a little more than four common heads; and what is very remarkable, the bones were all well united and of the usual thickness, and every part of the head was well proportioned. The effusion of water in the brain commenced in infancy, and continued to increase gradually, until near the time of his death, without impairing, very sensibly, the functions of the mind.—*Vt. Phœnix.*

One of those awful and destructive tornadoes which of late years have been of so frequent occurrence, visited the city of Tuscaloosa on the morning of the 3d inst. Its greatest fury was experienced in that part of the town lying back of the State House, and nearly every house in its path, amongst which were Lewin's three story brick tavern, and several other brick buildings, were prostrated, covering the inmates in their ruins. A lady, named Cummings, was killed, and several people were severely injured.

The new buildings of the Pottsville iron works, situated on the Monongahela river, above Pittsburg, were entirely destroyed by fire on the 17th inst. They were owned by Mr. Edward Hughes.

A correspondent suggests the propriety of employing our State prisoners on the public works; say for the present, in widening the Erie Canal. Their work would thus be turned to good account, and the complaints continually made by several classes of mechanics, that they are obliged to compete with State Prison Labor, would be effectually silenced. The suggestion strikes us favorable.—*N. Y. Jour. of Commerce.*

There is great outery, of late, on the subject of the tariff. Some say that if higher duties are not levied on various imported articles, or at least the present duties retained, some branches of our manufactures will be utterly ruined. A thundering sight more good would be done by levying duties on our extravagance and gassy notions, then by meddling with the course of the present tariff laws.—*Dollar Weekly.*

The price of shoeing a pair of horses in Iowa is five dollars, and at the price which corn brings, it would take as much as the two horses could draw to pay that sum.

Mr. Wm. Burke, aged 98, formerly a gentleman of independent fortune, and companion of his Majesty George the Fourth in his early days, when Prince of Wales, died a pauper in St. Pancras workhouse.

A late French paper mentions that early in the morning of December 26, an enormous avalanche fell from a height of 1500 feet, upon the hamlet of Artigues, near Auzac, at the foot of the Pyrenees, and entirely destroyed all the houses, with the whole of the inhabitants. The intelligence of this dreadful calamity did not reach Auzac till the day after, on account of the remote position of the hamlet. Fifty of the inhabitants went to give what succor they could, but found only a few corpses out of the total number under the houses. It is not said how many persons are supposed to have perished.

A grain of blue vitrol or carmine will tinge a gallon of water, so that in every drop the color may be perceived; and a grain of musk will scent a room for twenty years.

Love labor; for if you do not want it for food you may for physic. It is wholesome for the body and mind.

It is computed that 75,000 persons have been reformed within the past year by the new temperance movements.

The Phil. Enquirer says that Mr. Norris, the celebrated engine maker, has received from the Emperor of Russia, a splended ring, valued at $6000, as a compliment to his skill and ingenuity.

Condy Raguet, Esq. well known as the author of several works on Political Economy, died at Philadelphia aged 58, on the 22d.

The census of Washington County for 1841, gives a total of 11,753 males and 11,753 females. Of these, 11 males and 10 females are colored persons.

There are over 300,000 more males than females in the United States. Those supernumerary men might as well be shot as any way, seeing they can't get married. The above is given by a bachelor editor as an argument for war, and he concludes by calling for a gun.

The London Times sneeringly says, that the most zealous advocate of our bankrupt law among the editors in New York was the first to take advantge of it.

Several vessels have sailed from Halifax for the South American States, loaded with ice.

A case which has been in the courts six years and ten months, was decided in the final resort, on Tuesday last, by the Supreme Court at Boston, and a verdict of *four dollars* damages recorded.

We have now before us (sent by Mr. Thorburn) a quantity of fresh green peas, received yesterday from Charleston, where they were grown in the open air. They are of the sort called "*Early Cedo Nulli.*"—*Commercial Advertiser.*

The friends of American Industry of the city and county of Albany, without distinction of party, who are in favor of protecting the home interests of every class and description of American Industry, looking to the whole extent of such interests without either sectional bias or party dictation; are requested to meet at the city Hall in the city of Albany, on Monday evening next, April 4th at 7 o'clock, to take into consideration the best method of promoting such objects.

Albany March 29th 1842.

MINIATURE PAINTING ON IVORY.

D. WAGNER, Miniature Painter, has taken a room in Douw's New Building, corner of State and South Market streets, where he respectfully invites the citizens to call and see his specimens. This room is No. 22, 3d floor, entrance from either State or Market sts.

☞ IMPORTANT WORK!

Now in the course of Publication,

A DICTIONARY OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES AND MINES,

Containing a clear exposition of their principles and practice: By ANDREW URE, M. D., F. R. S., M. G. S., M. A. S., London, Mem. Acad. N. S., Philadel., S. Ph. Soc. N. Germ. Hanov., Mulii., &c. &c. &c. ☞ Illustrated with one thousand two hundred and forty-one engravings. ☜

Mr. Jones is now sole agent for the above work in this city, to to whom application can be made at the News Room, corner of State street and Broadway.

MISCELLANY.

MY HOME.

BY MRS. E. J. HOWE.

My home! 't is where the forest trees are bending
Beneath the verdant weight of bursting leaves,
And at their roots a gentle stream is wending,
While o'er it many an arch the grape vine weaves.

My home! 't is where the fresh breeze from the mountain,
Fans like an angel's wing the fever'd brow,
Rippling the crystal waters of the fountain
Round which the violets are springing now.

My home! 't is where I see the soft stars twinkling,
Undimm'd, far in the empyrean depths of blue,
Where the bright dew drops fall like diamonds, sprinkling
The modest snow-drop and the violet's hue.

My home! 't is where the sound of merry voices
Tell of glad hearts, unstain'd by shame and sin,
Of many a spirit which in life rejoices,
Unmindful of the city's pride and din.

I would not give my home, the sunbeams glancing,
In fairy shadows thro' the nodding trees,
The blessed moon light and the star gleams dancing
Upon the wave, stirr'd by the evening breeze.

And more than these, the precious smiles that brighten
The simple hearth from which my thoughts ne'er roam,
The words of confidence and love that lighten
The cares of life, and make a heaven of home!

I would not give my home for all that bindeth
The monarch to his proud and gorgeous throne,
For ah! a king with all his power ne'er findeth
A heart as light and happy as my own!

Clark's Mills, O.

POWER OF A KISS.

Travelling into town one night about dusk, Doctor ———, had occasion to call at the mansion of an esteemed townsman, who had among other worldly possessions, two or three very fine daughters. He had scarce knocked at the door when it was hastily opened by one of these blooming maidens, who as quick as thought, threw her arms around his neck, and before he had time to say, "Oh, don't," pressed her warm delicate lips to his, and gave him as sweet a kiss as ever heart of swain deserved. In utter astonishment, the worthy man was endeavoring to stammer out something, when the damsel exclaimed, "Oh, mercy, mercy!—Dr. ———, is this you? I thought as much as could be it was my brother Henry."

"Pshaw!" thought the Doctor to himself, "you didn't think any such thing." But taking her hand, he said in a forgiving tone, "There is no harm done, don't give yourself any uneasiness; though you ought to be a little more careful."

After this gentle reproof, he was ushered into the parlor by the maiden, who as she came to the light, could not conceal the deep blush that glowed upon her cheek; while the boquet that was pinned upon her bosom, shook like a flower garden in an earthquake. And when he rose to depart, it somehow fell to her lot to wait upon him to the door; and it may be added, that in the entry they held discourse together for some minutes—on what subject it is not for us to say.

As the warm hearted physician plodded homewards, he argued with himself in this wise:

"Miss ———, knew it was me who knocked at the door, or how did she recognize me before I spoke?—And is it probable that her brother would knock before entering? She must be desperately in——— pshaw!— Why, if she loves a brother at that rate, how she must love her husband; for, by the great squash, I never felt such a kiss in my life!"

Three weeks after the above incident, Dr. ———, was married to Miss ———

SCIENTIFIC PURSUITS.

The re-examined and accumulated results of the researches of geologists, and of the combined labors of astronomers and mathematicians, cannot have been attained for the mere entertainment of those who have devoted themselves to such pursuits. They point to a higher destiny. The more successfully the sciences have been cultivated, the brighter and more numerous have become the signs, and we may add, the demonstrations of the existence of an Omnipotent intelligence, by whom all things were made.—*London Quarterly.*

PROPER NAMES.

Proper names were originally significant of mental or bodily qualities. Sometimes, also, they were made to serve as memorials of circumstances connected with the birth of a child. Perhaps the first instance was the only one where such a practice could be consistent with reason, since the future character of no infant could ever be predicted at its birth. The following are some of the most common names, with their signification in the language in which they originated.

Aaron, a mountain. *Heb.*
Abel, vanity. *Heb.*
Abraham, father of many. *Heb.*
Adam, red earth. *Heb.*
Alexander, help of men. *Gr.*
Alfred, all peace. *Sax.*
Ambrose, immortal. *Gr.*
Andrew, courageous. *Gr.*
Arthur, a strong man. *Brit.*
Basil, kindly. *Gr.*
Bennet, blessed. *Lat.*
Cesar, adorned with hair. *Lat.*
Caleb, a dog. *Heb.*
Cecil, dim. *Lat.*
Charles, noble spirit. *Germ.*
Christopher, bearing Christ. *Gr.*
Constantine, resolute. *Lat.*
Cyril, a little Cyrus.
Daniel, God is judge. *Heb.*
David, beloved. *Heb.*
Edmund, happy peace. *Sax.*
Edwin, happy, courageous. *Sax.*
Eugene, nobly descended. *Gr.*
Eustace, standing firm. *Gr.*
Francis, free. *Germ.*
Frederick, rich peace. *Germ.*
Geoffrey, joyful. *Germ.*
Gilbert, bright as gold. *Sax.*
Gregory, watchful. *Gr.*
Guy, the mistletoe herb. *Fr.*
Henry, rich lord. *Germ.*
Hugh, high, lofty. *Latin.*
Humphrey, domestic peace. *Germ.*
Isaac, laughter. *Heb.*
Jacob, a supplanter. *Heb.*
John, the grace of God. *Heb.*
Jonathan, the gift of the Lord. *Heb.*
Joseph, addition. *Heb.*
Lawrence, crowned with laurel. *Heb.*
Lewis, the defender of the people. *Lat.*
Luke, a wood or grove. *Lat.*
Mars, a hammer. *Lat.*
Matthew, a gift. *Heb.*
Owen, well descended. *Brit.*
Patrick, a nobleman. *Lat.*
Paul, little, small. *Lat.*
Philip, a lover of horses. *Gr.*
Richard, powerful. *Sax.*
Robert, famous in counsel. *Ger.*
Stephen, a crowned. *Gr.*
Thomas, a twin. *Heb.*
Walter, a wood-master.
William, defending many. *Ger.*

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

Winchell, the *polyfunnyist* says it is an ill wind that dont blow nobody nothing. The following colloquy was spread over the country some two dozen years since in an almanac, and was thought to be exceedingly funny. It may be so still.

Two friends, who had been separated a great while, meeting by chance, one asked the other how he did? He replied that he was very well, and was married since they last met. "That is good news indeed." "Nay, not so very good, neither, for I married a shrew." "That is bad, too." "Not so bad, neither, for I had two thousand pounds with her." "That is well again." "Not so well neither, for I laid it out in sheep, and they all died of the rot." "That was hard in truth." "Not so hard, neither, for I sold the skins for more than the sheep cost me." "Aye, that made you amends." "Not so much amends neither, for I laid out my money in a house, and it was burned." "That was a great loss, indeed." "Not so great a loss, neither, for my wife was burned in it."

MAXIMS.

A poor mechanic will be a poor man. To postpone doing right is equivalent to doing wrong.

Intelligence to plan, industry to execute, and economy to preserve—prosperity follows.

Ignorance, idleness and waste, are followed close in the rear by distress, poverty and want.

Talk little, hear much, and reflect more; distrust your own opinions till you have heard those of men who deserve consideration.

AGONY.—Nothing is more sublime in nature than a war horse, half frightened to death, and a village poet laboring under a vision. To feel this in all its vigor, one should turn poet and be delivered of something like the following rich stanza, which we find in some papers:

TO SALLY.

BY ZEPHANIAH STALKO.

Sally Dumpkins are the gal,
Wat I doo most add mire;
I kol her my sweet charmin Sal,
And Ime hur Zephaniah

It would be better if young ladies would encourage young men, more on account of their good character than their good clothes. A good reputation is better capital than a fine coat in almost any kind of business except wooing a fashionable lady.

A good story is told of president Humphrey, of Amherst college. One morning, before recitation, some of the students fastened a live goose on the president's chair:—when he entered the room and discovered the new occupant of his seat, he turned on his heels and coolly observed: "Gentlemen, I perceive that you have a competent instructor, and I will therefore leave you to your studies."

THE HINDOO GIRL.

The following interesting fact was stated in a recent lecture by Mr. Pierpont;

"At the present day, the uneducated Hindoo girl, by the use of her hands simply, could surpass in delicacy and fineness of texture, productions of the most perfect machinery, in the manufacture of cotton and muslin cloths. In England, cotton had been spun so fine that it would require a thread of four hundred and ninety miles in length to weigh a pound—but the Hindoo girl had, by her hands, constructed a thread which would require to be extended one thousand miles to weigh a pound; and the Deccale muslins of her manufacture, when spread on the ground and covered with dew, are no longer visible."

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THE subscriber having purchased Caldwell and Cameron's Lock Establishment, is now prepared to execute orders in their improved plan, in all the variety of Door Locks now used in the best style of bunding. The utility of these locks will at once be apparent to any one who may examine them. The principal difficulties existing in almost every lock now in use, and so much complained of by builders and house owners, in almost entirely removed. The simple but substantial application of the spring greatly lessens friction, and consequently lessens and tendency to wear. There is no liability in any of its movements, to get out of order, and any number of them may be applied with perfect ease and security to doors of various thickness, without the least alterations, trouble and expence, that generally attend the putting on of locks, as is best known to the experienced builder. Their utility has been thoroughly tested by experienced men, for the last two years, with entire satisfaction, and are considered by all who have used them, equal and in many respects superior to any other kind of lock now in the American market.

All orders addressed to the subscriber, at the Furnace, Fonda-street, will receive prompt attention,

ROB'T CUNNINGHAM.

Schenectady, Nov. 26, 1841.

Reference may be had to any of the undersigned gentlemen who have given their approving card for publication.

We, the undersigned builders, have used Caldwell and Cameron's patent door locks, and from their simple construction, cheapness and general utility, do not hesitate to recommend them to the public, as equal to any lock of American manufacture now in use.

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CORNELIUS THOMPSON,
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I have during the past year, put on a number of Caldwell and Cameron's patent mortice and knob locks, and consider them the easiest to put on, and the best working lock I have ever used of ceen 37 JOHN RAYSIDE, Albany.

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